## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

## **Listing of Claims:**

- 1. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a compound that <u>stimulates</u> modulates hepatocyte growth or plasma cell differentiation or <u>Th2</u> T-cell subset activity comprising:
- a) contacting hepatocytes or B cells or T cells <u>from an XBP-1 deficient mouse, deficient</u> in XBP-1 with a test compound; <u>and</u>
- b) determining the effect of the test compound on the growth of the hepatocytes or differentiation of the B cells into plasma cells or Th2 cytokine production by the T cells, the test compound being identified as a modulator of hepatocyte growth or plasma cell differentiation or Th2 T-cell subset activity based on the ability of the test compound to stimulate modulate the growth of the hepatocytes or differentiation of the B cells or Th2 cytokine production by the T cells from the XBP-1 deficient mouse deficient in XBP-1.
- 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the cells deficient in XBP-1 are in a non human XBP-1 deficient animal and the cells are contacted with the test compound by administering the test compound to the non-human XBP-1 deficient mouse animal.
  - 3. (Canceled)
- 4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the cells deficient in XBP-1 are isolated from a non-human the XBP-1 deficient mouse animal, or embryo thereof, and the cells are contacted with the test compound by culturing the test compound with the isolated cells deficient in XBP-1.

## 5.-13. (Canceled)

14. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein hepatocyte growth is determined by determining the transcription of immediate early genes.

- 15. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein hepatocyte growth is determined by monitoring the incorporation of BrdU.
- 16. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein hepatocyte growth is determined by TUNEL staining.
- 17. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein B cell activity is determined by determining plasma cell differentiation.
- 18. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein B cell activity is determined by determining immunoglobulin secretion.
- 19. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein B cell activity is determined by determining Syndecan-1 transcription.
- 20. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein Th2 cell subset activity is determined by determining T cell cytokine production.
- 21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the T cell cytokine is selected from the group consisting of: IL-4, ILl-5, IL-6, and IL-10.
- 22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the XBP-1 deficient mouse is an XBP-1 knock-out mouse.
- 23. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the XBP-1 deficient mouse is an XBP-1 conditional knock-out mouse.